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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPT 1.0N3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2008

Case No. S-S-8432

TPO:lb
Salzburg Section
5 September 1946

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: KUPZIS-TORNATOV, Vladimir, Alleged War Criminal
DP Camp Parsch, Villa II, Salzburg

RE: Interrogation and Arrest 1946

Acting on instructions from the Special Agent in Charge, this Agent arrested Subject in compliance with the request contained in Letter, USFA French Liaison Officer, dated 12 July 1946, wherein Subject the person of and the extortion of money from one Princess Boris GALITZINE. Letter, SSU, Austria, dated 19 August 1946, Subject: "KUPZIS Vladimir alias TORNADOFF", advised this office of Subject's address, as given above, and of the alias, "TORNADOFF".

Interrogation and an examination of Subject's documents determined the following:

KUPZIS-TORNATOV Vladimir was born 8 April 1905 in Tiflis, Caucasian Russia, attended school there and studied pharmacy. In February 1921 Subject and his family left Tiflis and fled the communist revolution to Riga, Latvia, where Subject established himself as a pharmacist. On 15 September 1936 Subject left Latvia and on 20 December 1936 joined the Spanish Republican Army. He participated in the Spanish civil war and attained the rank of Major. On 8 February 1939 Subject joined the flight of the remnants of the Spanish Republican Army and crossed the border into France, and was interned at Camp de Gurs, Department des Pyrenees.

On 20 September 1939, Subject was released from the French Internment Camp and permitted to join the 12th Foreign Legion Infantry Regiment, with which he served at the Marne front during the German attack in 1940, distinguishing himself, and earning several decorations until he was wounded on 6 June 1940. He was then hospitalized at Lumaux, Southern France, where he remained until 27 August 1940 when he received his French certificate of demobilizations.

Subject found employment through a recommendation of his former Commanding Officer and worked at the "Ecole de Carbonisation" at St. Paul Lez Durance from September 1940 to 28 August 1941, when he went to Versailles to join the French "Anti-Bolshevik Legion", because, as a former member of the Spanish Republican Army, he was in a Vichy-French internment category, and

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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caught by the Gendarmes. Subject was sent to Cracow, Poland, on 3 September 1941 and was made a medical Sergeant in the "Anti-Bolshevik Legion" which was forming there. He thereafter served on the Moscow front. In Spring 1942 all White Russians were discharged from the Legion on orders from its German Army High Command Liaison Staff. Subject thereupon returned to Versailles and to Paris, only to be arrested by the French Police. He was delivered to the SD and after interrogation told that he had a chance to escape prison if he worked for the German SD.

On 16 July 1942 Subject started his work as interpreter and interrogator for the SD, which was located at 82 Avenue Foch, Paris. He served in "Abteilung IVb", the Russian section called "Betreuung der Russischen Emigranten in Frankreich, und Belgien" under SS-Obersturmfuehrer JETZINGER (fnu). Subject worked directly with the former GFP Lieutenant and later SS-Untersturmfuehrer NIEMANN (fnu). One SS-Obersturmfuehrer HOFFMANN: Hans was, as chief of the indigenous SD personnel, responsible for Subject's conduct, and Subject transferred in February 1943 to the Gestapo with HOFFMANN. He worked out of a headquarters located in Rue de Saussaus, Paris.

Subject admitted that he tortured numerous persons during his career as an interpreter and interrogator for the SD in Paris. He attributed these actions to the duress under which he had been placed by SS-Obersturmfuehrer HOFFMANN. He admitted readily that he had "treated" Princess Boris GALITZINE, but asserted that his chief, HOFFMANN, had done most of the "work". Because of Subject's diligence and excellent qualifications, HOFFMANN expanded his field of activity to include the "handling" of German nationals residing or entering France.

In June 1942 Subject and all other employees of the SD, whether in the "Volksdeutsche" category, as Subject was, or merely foreign nationals, were uniformed. They wore the regular field-grey SS uniform, with insignia of rank etc., but without the SS Runic signs. Subject was given the rank of "Oberscherfuehrer".

On 17 August 1944 Subject joined the flight of the SD from France to a rest and assembly area at Neustadt a.d. Weinstrasse, Germany, arriving there 10 September 1944. After a few weeks of inactivity, Subject was sent to Metz, France, in October 1944 to work there with "SD Einsatzkommando WUESCH", named after one SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer WUESCH (fnu), who had been SD chief in Orleans, France. Subject immediately obtained leave and went to Berlin with the intention of securing his release from SD service by joining the White Russian forces of General Vlassov. When he returned, on 10 December 1944, to "SD Einsatzkommando WUESCH", which was then located at Trier, Germany, he was told that permission had been granted to transfer to the VLASSOV forces. However, when Subject reported in Berlin, he was screened by the SD and told that, in view of his Spanish Repub-

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lican Army and French Foreign Legion background, he was not acceptable.

Subject then traveled via Breslau, Germany, to Karlsbad, CSR, where he met friends from his Riga, Latvia days, who in the meantime had acquired influential positions with General VLASSOV. These friends procured papers for him and sent him to Salzburg, with a recommendation to General TURKUL, who had been charged with activating a "White Russian Division in Salzburg. Subject arrived 8 April 1945 in Salzburg, purchased a "comic-opera" uniform, and was commissioned a Major by General TURKUL.

When U. S. Forces occupied Salzburg, 5 May 1945, Subject, as a former VLASSOV soldier, was not taken prisoner. He subsequently entered Parsch D? Camp, Salzburg, and has resided there until this date.

A check of the files of this office revealed no adverse information regarding Subject. However they contained SHAEF Card No. 130606, listing: WUESCH (fnn), Germany, Hauptsturmfuehrer, Sino and SD, 1945"; and SHAEF Card No. 48427, "JETZINGER (fnn), SS-Obersturmfuehrer (1943) member of Referat IV F (1943); in Abteilung IV c/d, Sino and SD, Paris (July 1943), FPK Leiter Gruppe GFF in Paris, early 1944." In addition, SHAEF Card No. 48475 notes: "NIEMANN (fnn); GFF, career; Feldpolizeisekretar GFF Kdo. Gruppe 603 German Embassy Paris (1944)." These above listed personalities are believed identical with those named by Subject.

AGENT'S NOTES:

Subject had admitted that he was an SD Agent in Paris, France, 16 July 1942 to August 1944, and that during this period, he met, among others, one Princess Boris GALITZINE. It is therefore the opinion of this Agent that he is identical with the personality "KPUPTIS or KYPTIS Vladimir", who is wanted by the French Services as a War Criminal. Subject has been arrested and interned in Camp Marous W. Orr, pending receipt of request for his extradition from the French authorities concerned.

APPROVED:

FRANK P. OTTO
Special Agent, CIC

GERALD J. WEBER
SAIC, CIC
Lead Salzburg Det.

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